



***UPON RETURNING TO SCHOOL,  
BELIN-BLANK FELLOWS  
WILL BE ABLE TO:***

- I**ntegrate new understandings about gifted and talented children, as well as effective strategies into the regular curriculum;
- N**urture the social and emotional needs of their gifted students;
- S**uggest teaching units that will allow for variations in content, process, product, and environment according to student need;
- P**rovide information about the counseling needs of gifted and talented students;
- I**nforn parents of gifted and talented students about appropriate opportunities and services;
- R**eview new information and teaching strategies with members of the faculty and interested staff and community members;
- E**ffectively collaborate with district teachers/ coordinators for gifted programs.

***THE FELLOWSHIP PROVIDES:***

- Readings as well as presentations from leaders in gifted education;
- Discussions with peers to strengthen aspirations for academic year 2021-2022;
- Fellows may enroll in 2 graduate credits and receive an automatic tuition scholarship that covers half the cost of graduate tuition (2 Iowa licensure renewal units available for \$200).

***IN MEETING THE GOALS AND  
OBJECTIVES OF THE  
FELLOWSHIP, PARTICIPANTS WILL:***

- D**iscuss research pertaining to the academic, social, and emotional needs of gifted learners, including twice-exceptional children;
- I**nvestigate and analyze the theories underpinning the implementation of gifted education;
- S**tudy various processes for the discovery of gifted and talented students, including above-level testing;
- C**ritique curriculum models in gifted education;
- O**bjectively explore the unique needs of culturally, linguistically, ethnically, and geographically gifted and talented students;
- V**isualize new ways to foster the social development of gifted and talented students;
- E**xplore best practices for gifted learners, including appropriate content, processes, products, and environments;
- R**eview and analyze program models to serve gifted students and undertake research in areas of personal interest in gifted education.



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*Nurturing Potential | Inspiring Excellence*



The Connie Belin &  
Jacqueline N. Blank  
Fellowship Program  
in Gifted Education

*June 21 - 25, 2021*

## ***WHO WAS CONNIE BELIN?***

Connie Belin was a dedicated leader in education—especially gifted education—in the State of Iowa. In addition to her work as a teacher, school board member, member of the state Board of Regents, and member of the President’s Commission on Presidential Scholars, she served on the board of the Iowa Talented and Gifted Association (ITAG) and on the Iowa State Department of Public Instruction Advisory Committee on Programs for the Gifted and Talented. Connie Belin passed away in 1980, and the original Fellowship Program for Teacher Training in Gifted Education was established with a generous gift from her friends, Jacqueline and Myron Blank.

## ***WHO WAS JACQUELINE N. BLANK?***

Jacqueline N. Blank had an impressive history of public service and philanthropy. Jackie and her husband, Myron (Mike), were the co-founders of the Belin-Blank Center and were recognized as “Outstanding Friends of the University” by the University of Iowa. Jackie served as Trustee for the Des Moines Art Center, as a member of the Advisory Board for the University of Iowa Foundation, and as Honorary Co-Chair of Variety Club Telethon. She was also Honorary Co-Chair of the Belin-Blank Center Advisory Board. Jackie Blank passed away in 2002.

## ***HOW IS THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED?***

In the spring, teachers selected for the program receive materials and assignments. During the summer, an intensive five-day workshop will be held via Zoom from June 21 - 25. Participants need to dedicate those days to lively interaction with others, as well as readings/podcasts/videos to prepare for each day. Fellows may enroll in two graduate-level credits (50% tuition scholarship provided).

## ***WHAT IS THE PROGRAM’S PHILOSOPHY?***

**Forty years of experience** have shown that the most effective way to provide meaningful education to gifted students is to provide a special program for classroom teachers. In this way, teachers will have the skills to work with gifted students as well as the knowledge and skills to provide leadership for other teachers.

Varying approaches to professional development in gifted education exist, but no program provides the incentives for teachers, as well as the intensive individualized approach, offered by this fellowship program. The Belin-Blank Fellowship Program in Gifted Education makes it possible for a select number of teachers, *nominated by their schools*, to participate in professional development in gifted education.

## ***WHAT IS THE PROGRAM’S PURPOSE?***

The Fellowship Program is a unique opportunity for teachers to learn more about the area of gifted education. Its purpose is to help teachers learn better methods for working with gifted children in their classrooms. The program is designed to:

- 1) give teachers the tools to provide appropriate education for gifted students;
- 2) help teachers develop in students a heightened sense of social responsibility in the use of their talents; and
- 3) provide leadership in gifted education.

**Apply Online:**  
[belinblank.org/fellowship](http://belinblank.org/fellowship)

## ***THE GOAL OF THE BELIN-BLANK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IS TO HELP PARTICIPANTS:***

- L**earn effective new ways to discover gifted and talented students and meet their unique affective needs;
- E**nhance their abilities to meet the different academic needs of gifted/talented students;
- A**ct as an effective resource in gifted education for other educators in their schools and districts;
- R**evise their new knowledge and skills for applications to ALL learners in their classes;
- N**urture the sense of social responsibility in the use and development of talents among gifted students.



## ***INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:***

**Dr. Laurie Croft**, Associate Director for Professional Development at the Belin-Blank Center, and **Dr. Randy Lange**, Visiting Instructor, are lead instructors.

Guest speakers from the Belin-Blank Center, UI College of Education, include faculty such as:

- \* **Dr. Susan Assouline**, Director and Myron & Jacqueline Blank Professor of Gifted Education;
- \* **Dr. Clar Baldus**, Clinical Professor
- \* **Dr. Nicholas Colangelo**, Dean Emeritus;
- \* **Dr. Alissa Doobay**, Supervisor of Psychological Services, Assessment and Counseling Clinic